

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

June 29, 1990



ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 90-60

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY GAIN COORDINATORS  
ALL AFDC PROGRAM COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: SERVING FEDERAL TARGET GROUPS IN GAIN

As you are aware, the Family Support Act of 1988, PL 100-485, in creating the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) Program, defined a target population for the provision of JOBS Program services to applicants and recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). As an incentive for states to serve this group, the Act requires that states spend 55 percent of JOBS funds on members of the target population in order to receive enhanced federal funding. Therefore, in order to help ensure that the state receives the highest possible federal financial participation for its expenditures for the Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) Program (the state JOBS Program), it is very important that members of the JOBS target population be given priority for participation in GAIN.

The target population is defined as including each individual who:

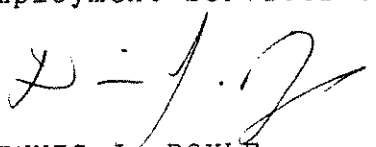
- (1) Is receiving AFDC and who has received such aid for any 36 of the preceding 60 months;
- (2) Makes application for AFDC, and has received such aid for any 36 of the 60 months immediately preceding the most recent month for which application has been made;
- (3) Is a custodial parent under the age of 24 who:
  - (i) Has not completed a high school education and, at the time of application for AFDC, is not enrolled in high school (or a high school equivalency course of instruction); or
  - (ii) Had little or no work experience in the preceding year; or
- (4) Is a member of a family in which the youngest child is within 2 years of being ineligible for AFDC because of age.

Several counties have inquired about the uniform definition for the phrase "little or no work experience" as it pertains to the under 24-year-old segment of the target population. The uniform definition which the Department is using to identify target group members in this subgroup is as follows:

Custodial parents under 24 years of age are in the target population if, during the preceding 12 months, they have had no more than a three-month continuous period of full-time work experience compensated at least at the California minimum wage level.

You are urged to take steps as soon as possible, consistent with your county GAIN Plan, to identify and give priority to bringing members of the federal target population into the program. This does not affect existing participants. Consistent with current procedures in GAIN reporting, participants may self-certify target group status. Within the target population, those who express a desire to participate, whether mandatory registrants or exempt, should receive the highest priority. You should not make changes which would result in expenditures beyond your approved GAIN budgets.

If you have any questions, please contact your GAIN and Employment Services Operations Analyst at (916) 324-6962.



DENNIS J. BOYLE  
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA